



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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## **Legislators Obtain Funding For County's Only Operating Burn Tower**

(KINGSTON, NY) Through the diligence of Ulster County Legislator Craig Lopez and Minority Leader Ken Ronk, a \$10,000 Legislative Program allocation has been secured for the Walker Valley Fire District burn tower.

"Our first responders are a priceless commodity to Ulster County," stated Legislator Craig Lopez. "It is important the men and women that volunteer and put their lives on the line for the safety of our community are provided with the resources needed for proper training."

Currently Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 is the only department in Ulster County with a facility that provides "live burn" training for its members and neighboring fire departments in Cragmoor, Napanoch, Ellenville and Shawangunk Valley.

"Live burn training can mean the difference between a firefighter and someone who can operate a hose," stated Minority Leader Ken Ronk. "The experience of feeling the heat of a structure fire is invaluable to fire training."

These heat resistant panels provide realistic burn simulations while maintaining the structural integrity of the tower itself.

"This \$10,000 Legislative allocation will potentially save thousands of lives," concluded Minority Leader Ronk. "And I commend Legislator Lopez for bringing this forward."

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[Photos of Walker Valley Fire District Burn Tower Attached]

